

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
Oct. 20, 2015



## CONNECTICUT'S LARGEST DAIRY FARM PROTECTS PRIME FARMLAND UNDER STATE AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

*By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky*

**ELLINGTON** – More than 125 acres of Connecticut's largest dairy farm have been forever dedicated for agricultural use under the state's Farmland Preservation Program.

Oakridge Dairy, owned by the Bahler family, on Monday conveyed the development rights to 125.7 acres of the farm, where corn and hay are grown to support its herd of approximately 4,000 cows.

More than 90 percent of the land, along Abbott and Middle roads near the East Windsor line, contains prime and statewide important farmland soils.

Preservation of the farmland was accomplished through a cost-sharing partnership with the state Department of Agriculture, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Town of Ellington.

"Ellington has considerable working lands that contribute greatly to Connecticut agriculture," Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said. "We are pleased to work with the Bahlers and partner with the town and the USDA on this important project."

The 125 acres was considered highly susceptible to non-agricultural development because it is relatively flat and clear and is located in an area that has seen significant home construction in recent years.

"Hopefully, neighboring farms will see the value of farmland

preservation and begin thinking about doing the same thing," said Thomas L. Morgart, NRCS State Conservationist. "That area is full of well-drained, fertile soil and this is a perfect way to make sure it stays that way forever."

Ellington Town Planner Lisa Houlihan said farming is iconic in the town, and preservation of farmland is one of the town's most important long-range planning goals.

"As a municipal official, I know how crucial state and federal support is to meeting planning objectives," Houlihan said. "I'm thankful for continued support and delighted to add Oakridge Dairy to other farmland permanently preserved in Ellington through joint partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture."

The farm has been in the Bahler family since the 1800s, when Adolph Bahler - originally from Switzerland - moved from Illinois to Connecticut.

After initially raising tobacco, potatoes, and dairy cows, the farm transitioned to mostly dairy in the early 1900s and the Bahlers began buying land and farms in surrounding towns.

Originally known as Bahler Farms, the family bought nearby Oakridge Dairy in the 1970s, and recently decided to make that the name of their entire operation. Encompassing about

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# LANCASTER, PA, LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:	LOW	HIGH
breakers 75-80% lean	77.00	82.00
boners 80-85% lean	76.00	81.00
lean 88-90% lean	73.00	78.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
HiCh/Prm 3-4	119.50	128.00
Ch2-3	117.50	125.50
Sel1-3	109.50	122.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/Prm 3-4	119.00	123.00
Ch2-3	102.50	116.00
Sel1-2	96.00	109.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
HiCh/Prm	120.00	122.00
Ch2-3	117.00	120.00
Sel2-3	111.00	113.00
CALVES Graded bull		
No 1 120-128 lbs	257.00	257.00
No 1 110-118 lbs	295.00	305.00
No 1 95-105 lbs	240.00	260.00
No 1 80-90 lbs	220.00	230.00
CALVES Graded heifers		
No 1 85-105 lbs	240.00	270.00
No 2 70-95 lbs	170.00	210.00

## NEW HOLLAND, PA

SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:		
Ch/Prime 2-3		
40-50 lbs	250.00	250.00
50-60 lbs	255.00	255.00
80-90 lbs	196.00	196.00
90-110 lbs	180.00	188.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
100-110 lbs	92.00	92.00
110-120 lbs	80.00	88.00
120-160 lbs	85.00	100.00
BUCKS		
160-200 lbs	74.00	137.00
200-300 lbs	68.00	78.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Select 1, by head, est.		
60-80 lbs	170.00	210.00
80-100 lbs	225.00	275.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel1, by head, est.		
130-180 lbs	205.00	225.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Select 1		
150-250 lbs	285.00	305.00
SLAUGHTER WETHERS: sel 1, by head		
100-150 lbs	360.00	370.00

## NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

All prices per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	56.00	66.00
	300-350 lbs	47.00	54.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	42.00	47.00
	300-350 lbs	42.00	47.00
Sows 1-3	300-500 lbs	46.50	50.00
	500-850 lbs	49.00	55.00
Boars	400-800 lbs	6.00	7.00

## WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices

### NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
APPLES, CORTLAND, XFCY, BU	20.00	24.00
APPLES, CORTLAND, #1, BU	19.00	19.00
APPLES, FUJI, FCY, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES, FUJI, XFCY, BU	30.00	30.00
APPLES, GALA, FCY, BU	16.00	16.00
APPLE, GLDN RUSSET, XFCY, BU	30.00	30.00
APPLES, HONYCRSP, FCY, BU	35.00	35.00
APPLES, MACS, XFNCY, BU	18.00	22.00
APPLES, MAC, 120, US1, CELL PK	17.00	18.00
APPLES, MAC, FNCY, 12-3LB	15.00	18.00
APPLES, MACOUN, XFCY, BU	30.00	35.00
APPLES, MACOUN, NG, BU	26.00	28.00
APPLES, MUTSU, FCY, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES, SPENSER, NG, BU	20.00	20.00
BROCCOLI, BUNCHED, 14	15.00	17.00
BROCCOLI, CRN CUT, 20 LBS	18.00	20.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, 50LBS	14.00	16.00
CABBAGE, SAVOY, 50LBS	16.00	16.00
CARROTS, BUNCHED, 24	10.00	10.00
CELERY, 2 DOZEN	16.00	17.00
CAULIFLOWER, 9 COUNT	18.00	20.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GAL	18.00	18.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	20.00	22.00
CORN, 5 DOZ	15.00	15.00
EGGPLANT, 1-1/9	15.00	18.00
GOURDS, SHELLACKED, 1/2BU	25.00	32.00
KALE, 12 COUNT	18.00	20.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, 24	15.50	16.50
LETTUCE, GRN OR RED, 24	15.00	16.00
PARSNIPS, MED, 20 LBS	22.00	23.00
PEPPER, BELL, GRN, MED, 1-1/9	12.00	12.00
PEPPER, BELL, GRN, LGE, 1-1/9	15.00	15.00
PEPPERS, CHRRYHOT, 1/2 BU	10.00	15.00
PEPPR, HUNGARIANWAX, 1/2BU	10.00	15.00
PEPPERS, LONG HOTS, 1-1/9	10.00	15.00
POTATO, WHT, SZ A, 50LBS	20.00	20.00
POTATO, RNDRED, SZ A, 50 LBS	10.00	11.00
POTATO, RUSSET, #1, 50 LBS	15.00	15.00
PUMPKIN, HOWDEN, 36"BIN	200.00	225.00
PUMPKIN, HWDNWHIT, 24"BIN	225.00	240.00
PUMPKINS, MINIS, 1/2 BU	15.00	16.00
PUMPKINS, PIE, 1-1/9	14.00	16.00
RHUBARB, 20 LBS	36.00	36.00
SPINACH, 23 LBS	25.00	25.00
SQUASH, ACORN, 1-1/9	13.00	15.00
SQUASH, BTTRCUP, 1-1/9	20.00	20.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9	13.00	15.00
SQUASH, CARNIVAL 1-1/9	20.00	20.00
SQUASH, GREEN, 1/2 BU	15.00	15.00
SQUASH, WHITE ACORN, 1-1/9	20.00	20.00
SQUASH, GREY, 1/2 BU	26.00	30.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, 1-1/9	12.00	20.00
TOMATO, GHSE, VINERIPE, 11LB	10.00	12.00
TOMATO, GHSECHERRY, 8-10OZ	14.00	16.00
TURNIPS, 25 LBS	14.00	15.00

## MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, October 19, 2015

Bob Calves:	LOW	HIGH
45-60 lbs.	60.00	115.00
61-75 lbs.	190.50	200.00
76-90 lbs.	225.00	230.00
91-105 lbs.	235.00	240.00
106 lbs. & up	245.00	250.00
Farm Calves	255.00	260.00
Starter Calves	55.00	65.00
Veal Calves	130.00	160.00
Open Heifers	100.00	145.00
Beef Heifers	73.00	83.00
Feeder Steers	90.00	137.50
Beef Steers	107.00	117.00
Stock Bulls	130.00	170.00
Beef Bulls	85.50	110.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	1@	.05
Sows	1@	.31
Butcher Hogs	2@	60.00
Feeder Pigs	25.00	110.00
Sheep	n/a	n/a
Lambs	165.00	280.00
Goats each	95.00	350.00
Kid Goats	25.00	70.00
Canners	up to	79.50
Cutters	80.00	83.00
Utility Grade Cows	85.00	90.00
Rabbits each	5.00	20.00
Chickens each	3.00	22.50
Ducks each	3.00	15.00

## NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.48	1.65
LARGE	1.42	1.56
MEDIUM	1.33	1.46

## NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	2.05	2.15
LARGE	1.98	2.10
MEDIUM	1.77	1.87
SMALL	1.03	1.13

## USDA RETAIL PORK

October 16-22 - Price per pound or unit

WHOLE, B/IN LOINS	1.59	1.59
LOIN ROAST, BNLS	1.99	2.29
RIB END ROAST, B/IN	2.99	2.99
RIB END CHOP, B/IN	.99	1.99

## NE RETAIL TURKEY REPORT

October 16-22, per lb

FRESH HENS	1.69	1.69
FROZEN HENS	1.69	1.69
BNLS, WHOLE, FROZEN	4.99	4.99
DRUMSTICKS	1.29	1.99



**FOR SALE**

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com)

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com)

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

8-R. CT non-GMO grain and corn. Hay and straw. Pleasant View Farms. Louis. 860-803-0675.

101-R. Christmas Greens: Quality wreaths and roping. Many sizes and varieties. Samples gladly shown. 203-457-1344.

106-R. Christmas trees- Wholesale Douglas Fir, 6.5' – 8.5', Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden. 203-248-1018.

107-R. Polled Herefords bred back. \$1,000.00 each. John Deere Factory 3pt Hitch. Fits 2 cyls. \$800.00. Call 860-537-8890.

111-R. For Sale: Sundair 190,000 BTU oil fired furnaces. Set up for under-bench heating with 24" tube, but can be used as is to heat a shop or garage. 4 units available. Used only 6 seasons. List for over \$2,000. Reduced to \$500 each. Also, pallet forks for John Deere 4020 tractor or similar - \$300. Delivery available. 860-974-0045.

112-R. Bee Bee Trees – Korean Evodia. Excellent source of nectar for honeybees and other pollinators during the summer dearth of July and August. 4-5' trees available. \$39.00 each. 860-974-0045.

113-R. Eight open Baldy heifers, 15 months. Two fat Baldy steers. 860-485-5720.

114-R. Case IH JX1075C tractor, 4X4, cab, 340 hours. \$33,000.00. JD 4000, side console. Nice. \$11,500.00. JD 6200, 2WD. \$11,500.00. JD 2320, 4X4, with loader. \$12,500.00. JD 4600, 4X4, with loader. \$13,000.00. JD 4400, 4X4, with snowplow and mower deck. \$9,200.00. Ford 6610, 2WD. \$8,500.00. Bush Hog 3008 heavy duty mower used only 10 acres, like new. \$5,000.00. 16 ft. hay elevator, with motor. \$800.00. Several balers, round balers, rakes and tedders. 203-530-4953.

115-R. John Deere 2305, 4WD utility tractor. Many attachments: bucket, backhoe, front and rear plows, 3pth, weight box, landscape rake, snow blower. Mint condition. \$22,000.00 or Best Offer. Call 203-988-6815.

116. Two (2) ceiling hung Modine natural gas heaters, 40,500 BTU output. \$350.00 each. 860-205-3399.

117. Four (4) double hung 32" X 56-3/4" white replacement windows with screens. \$25.00 each. 860-205-3399.

118-R. For Sale: 170 flat new boxes, 20"x20" cube. \$300.00. Wooden, cemetery, yule boxes. Various sizes. \$3.50 and up. Krushefsky's Tree Farm, Woodstock. 860-942-1818.

**WANTED**

109-R. Wanna Grow Solar? Investors looking for 10 acres of land, within 1/3 mile of high tension power lines, to lease for solar photovoltaic panels. \$20,000.00 to \$40,000.00 per year. Call Nevin /Flamig Farm. 860-916-0644.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

**(Continued from page 1)**

2,800 acres in Ellington and Somers, the farm supplies milk to Guida's Dairy processing facility in New Britain, which is part of the Dairy Farmers of America co-op.

About half of the farm's 4,000 cows are available for milking on a given day.

The Bahler family plans to use the proceeds from the conveyance to purchase more cropland to support its operations, said Seth Bahler, head of the farm's management team that oversees a staff of about 40 employees.

Bahler, 26, is the son of Ron Bahler, one of the farm's four family owners. He began working at the farm about two years ago after selling a construction business he started upon graduating from high school.

"I was never really interested in farming but I like business," Seth said as he made his rounds around the farm in a pickup.

He and the management team have spent the last two years analyzing and updating the farm's entire operation - from how the financial books are kept to how animals are managed to how they handle employees.

Many of the farms' employees are originally from Mexico and live on the premises. One of the improvements that Seth made when he took over the management team was to build the workers a soccer field next to the farm's enormous pile of corn silage.

The men not only use the field on a regular basis among themselves, but host games with teams from other farms in Connecticut and other states.

On Monday, a team from a Vermont farm, also made up of mostly Mexican workers, traveled to Ellington for a match.

"The point is to give the guys something to do that they love and can do together," Seth said. "It's that kind of thing that builds good teamwork on the job."

Protecting the 125 acres through the state program is part of their plan of succession to the next generations of Bahlers.

"When you have been doing something for 40 years it's hard to change, so we want to structure things to allow younger management to take over," he said.

The family is now exploring diversifying their operation to perhaps include milk processing and agri-tourism. Bahler said they were pleasantly shocked when they held a little-advertised open house in September that drew about 1,000 visitors.

"That really got us thinking that we should consider diversifying," he said. "We're surrounded by people here and we want to find a way to tap into that."

Adapting to a changing agricultural and economic environment will continue to be his focus.

"Twenty years ago you could probably do eight out of ten things wrong on a farm and still make it," he said. "Now, you can do nine out of ten things right and still not make it. That's why we needed to redefine everything we do here."

Oakridge is the eighth farm to be protected under the state program this year.

Ten farms have been preserved in Ellington under the program since 1981, including the Kaminski, Pinney, Pease, Lanz, Culbro, DoJo, Myers and Charter farms.

**CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION**

110-R. Employment Opportunity with an established mail order seed company in Union CT. Select Seeds is looking for a horticulturalist and office manager with a passion for growing, writing and managing. Email resume to [info@selectseeds.com](mailto:info@selectseeds.com)





Clockwise from top left: Head farm manager Seth Bahler (right) talks with crop manager John Hoffman, operating a combine harvesting grain corn; the 125-acre crop field protected under the state Farmland Preservation Program; a soccer net at one end of a field built by the Bahlers for their workers next to the farm's corn silage pile.

Page 1 – Some of the Oakridge Dairy herd heads for the milking barn.

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